



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
Delta Regional Office (serving Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi)
MISSISSIPPI FIELD OFFICE
121 North Jefferson Street, Suite 230, Jackson, MS, 39201



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Esmerelda Dickson
Mississippi State Statistician
(601) 359-1259

2013 CENSUS OF AQUACULTURE PROFILES MISSISSIPPI FARMERS

Jackson, MS, October 16, 2014 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the 2013 Census of Aquaculture results on September 29, 2014. This report is the result of the third national census conducted by NASS to measure the U.S. aquaculture industry. The previous Census of Aquaculture was conducted in 2005.

“The 2013 Census of Aquaculture expands on the data collected about aquaculture during the 2012 Agriculture Census and provides a more comprehensive picture of the aquaculture sector at the national and state levels,” said NASS Administrator Joseph T. Reilly. “There is always a need for current industry-specific data and the results from the census of aquaculture will be used by federal, state and local governments, agribusinesses, trade associations and producers to make decisions impacting this specialized area of agriculture.”

The aquaculture census provides detailed information relating to production volume and methods, surface water acres and sources, sales, point of first sale outlets, and aquaculture distributed for restoration, conservation, enhancement, or recreational purposes.

The 2013 Census of Aquaculture data highlights for Mississippi:

- *Value of Products Sold - \$203,579,000*
- *Number of Farms - 224*
- *Production Acres- 47,475*
- *Total Food Fish Sales- \$202,808,000*
- *Number of Ponds- 4,377*

“Data from the census of aquaculture allow government leaders to more accurately allocate national and local funds to support the future of the industry, such as extension service projects and agricultural research,” said Reilly. “Extension and university representatives rely on the data to help determine research needs and to justify funding for programs aimed to develop new and improved methods of aquaculture production and profitability.”

For the 2013 Census of Aquaculture, an aquaculture farm is defined as any place from which \$1,000 or more of aquaculture products were produced and sold or distributed for conservation, enhancement or recreation during the census year. Aquaculture is defined as the farming of aquatic organisms, including: baitfish, crustaceans, food fish, mollusks, ornamental fish, sport or game fish and other aquaculture products. Farming involves some form of intervention in the rearing process, such as seeding, stocking, feeding or protection from predators.

Farming also implies individual or corporate ownership of the stock being cultivated, in a controlled environment at least part of the time. Fish, crustaceans, mollusks, and other aquatic products which are caught or harvested by the public from non-controlled waters or beds are considered wild caught and are not included as aquaculture.

To access the 2013 Census of Aquaculture results and other agriculture census data, visit http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/Census_of_Aquaculture/ or the Quick Stats database at <http://quickstats.nass.usda.gov>.

###

NASS is the federal statistical agency responsible for producing official data about U.S. agriculture and is committed to providing timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. We invite you to provide occasional feedback on our products and services. Sign up at http://bit.ly/NASS_Subscriptions and look for “NASS Data User Community.”

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).